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Falcon Fest '98

by Willie Martin

"I'm really glad my daughter goes to a school with such great spirit!"

This past weekend marked the days of Fitchburg State College's annual Falcon Fest. Falcon Fest is an all encompassing pep rally/carnival that stretches from Friday afternoon straight through Saturday night. The activities, which take place all over campus, are produced for students, parents, and FSC alumni.

Falcon Fest began with a pep rally on the quad, hosted by Shawn Wenzlick, president of the SGA. Shawn brought the football team to the front of the crowd and introduced them and the women's field hockey team to the audience. After a quick introduction from Shawn, the cheerleaders gave the crowd an energetic performance.

Then the crowd was treated to a performance by the excellent college dance club. Afterward, the students grouped in with their classes to participate in the "tug of war between the classes" contest.

Shawn then encouraged the crowd to head over to Weston Auditorium to watch the parade. As the parade made its way through the streets of the campus many threw candy from floats and handed out popcorn to the cheerful group that followed. The parade led the way to FSC's football field, where a powerful display of fireworks lit up the sky.

"I'm really glad my daughter goes to a school with such great spirit," said one mother who declined to identify herself because "it might embarrass my girl."

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President's proposals go to ACC

by AnneMarie Donahue

On Sept. 30, the All College Council met to discuss, among other things, Fitchburg State College President Michael Riccards' proposals. Before the discussion began, Dr. Riccards addressed the small group that met in Miller Oval.

"My approach is very simple; to raise the level of academic rigor at this institution," Riccards said. Riccards then went on to say that this would entail "less choices, more prescription. Structure is necessary for our students to have a strong background."

After the president's brief statement he left the meeting so the council could discuss the issues. Stanley Bucholtz, the vice president of FSC and chair of ACC, began the meeting by reviewing

old business which included going over last meeting's minutes, where the proposals had been discussed as well.

The council went over the proposal submission process, making the necessary changes to the packet as was required. However this task took a good deal of time and Bucholtz had to stop short the submission discussion to go onto assigning each proposal to the appropriate committee.

The proposals referred to the Academic Policy Committee are as follows, with the newly designated ACC number: ACC No. 1, changing the academic standards required for Student Teaching and Advanced Provisional/Standard Certification; ACC No. 2, changing the academic calendar for 1998-1999 to include Jan. 11-15 as a time for faculty to return volun-

tarily for implementation discussions for new academic standards and was to achieve academic rigor. ACC No. 7, changing the Common Graduation Requirements on p. 63, 1998-1999 college catalog. ACC No. 8, adding to the description of Independent Study currently on p. 65, 1998-1999 college catalog. ACC No. 11, changing the withdrawal policy, p. 38, 1998-1999 college catalog (undergraduate). ACC No. 12, changing the Incomplete Policy. ACC No. 13, changing the Grading Policy.

The proposals that were referred to the Curriculum Committee are as follows, again with the newly assigned ACC number: ACC No. 3, creating a discipline-based third requirement course in writing and literature for all students to replace Junior/Senior writing requirement in the Liberal Arts and

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President Riccards' new proposals

ACC Continued from Cover

1. The creation of a senior high-level administrator to supervise all education programs, including secondary teaching areas.
2. A requirement that no student can receive teacher certification without a 3.0 average overall, and 3.0 in his/her major. In addition, no student will go into the practice teaching component without having a 3.0 average in his/her major.
3. No student will go on to practice teaching without first passing the Massachusetts Teacher Examination.
4. The education major requirements will be reduced by one course, and teacher education students will be required in their junior year to take another upper-level writing skills course, in addition to the college's general requirements.
5. The college will offer free workshops on test-taking, the specific teacher content areas, and related matters. Attendance will be required.
6. The college will establish a special committee that will create common expectations for grammar, spelling, and mechanics. There will be workshops for faculty, who will be expected to administer such standards.
7. The entire faculty will be asked to return voluntarily one week prior to the beginning of classes in the winter in order to deal with the questions of academic rigor and implementing new

- standards of quality which have been approved.
8. All students will be required to take three courses in English composition and grammar. Weekly papers and reading assignments of one book per week will be required.
9. All Liberal Arts and Sciences courses must include substantial writing components and be reviewed for compliance every three years.
10. The General Studies degree will be abolished. An integrated arts and humanities major will be established.
11. All students will be required to take a one-year course in Western Civilization with bi-monthly essays on historical controversies of each major period.
12. By the end of 60 credits, all students must take a college writing/reading examination before they go on to advanced work. Transfer students with extensive course work will be allowed one semester grace in meeting that requirement.
13. All students will be required to pass discipline based, nationally formed tests in their majors before being certified.
14. Independent Study will not be given for courses that are offered as part of the regular schedule without the written approval of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.
15. No entering graduate student shall

move beyond one semester without presenting evidence of the GRE or equivalent tests. Students taking non-degree work are not covered by this provision. All graduate programs should meet the usually accepted standards of admissions, advisement, and sequential learning.

16. All students in the humanities should receive a bachelor of arts (not science) degree and satisfy a language requirement.

17. A year of course work in the sciences will be required, to include a laboratory experience.

18. Within the first month of each semester (for day students) the instructor shall give and grade exams. Students will then have one week (week six) in which to withdraw. There will be no withdrawals after that time.

19. The college will not grant an incomplete grade to any student except in cases of certifiable illness or the death of an immediate member of the family. All internships and practices will be included in grading time-lines as well.

20. The college's grading system should be:

A=100%-92% 4.0

B=91%-85% 3.0

C=84%-78% 2.0

D=77%-70% 1.0

All pluses and minuses will be abolished.

Sciences program. ACC No. 4, to have the Curriculum Committee review all existing Liberal Arts and Sciences courses every three years to insure that extensive writing is occurring in each course. First review to occur 1998-1999. ACC No. 5, deleting the General Studies Major, all tracks, taking effect in fall 1999. ACC No. 6, modifying the Liberal Arts and Sciences program to require all students to take two semesters of Western Civ. ACC No. 9, deleting the B.S. degree in English, History, and Political Science. ACC No. 10, amending the Liberal Arts and Sciences program to require under the Quantitative/Scientific Cluster to require one year long lab course in science. Once the proposals are sent to their respective committees for review they will be broken down once again and referred to subcommittees. These subcommittees will refine the wording work out the difficulties of the proposals and then send them back to the All College Council. ACC will then vote on them to adopt or decline.

The next ACC meeting will be held on Oct. 6, once again in Miller Oval. If you have any comments or opinions concerning these proposals contact the appropriate committee listed in this article.

Rock the vote dulled to a whisper

by Rondi E. Bloom

Boston's Jamin 95.5FM was recently enlisted to help tackle FSC's "Rock the Vote" drive, but even the presence of a major radio station was not enough to stir many FSC students into registering. Despite a significant effort by Masspirg to notify students of the opportunity to register right here on campus, the turnout was unfortunately rather low.

Rock the vote travels the college circuit endeavoring to involve students in the local, state, and national

governments by boosting voter registration and awareness.

The Voting Rights Act of 1972 gave college students the options of registering to vote either in their hometowns or their college towns, and lowering the voting age to 18.

What does this mean for Fitchburg State students?

"I urge everyone to go out and vote, you can make a difference," says Tullio Nieman, FSC's director of student activities. This choice to vote in Fitchburg gives you a stake in Fitchburg as well as Massachusetts.

he said. "You can vote on issues that affect you and petition for a new state policy. In addition, with such a small portion of the registered voters turning out for elections, students can make a large impact on local government decisions." Nieman went on to stress that "if you don't vote, you don't count."

The Student Activities Office would like to thank Masspirg and former FSC student Damone Ballard, who now works at 94.5FM, for all of their help in bringing "Rock the Vote" to the students.



Illustration by Tim Card

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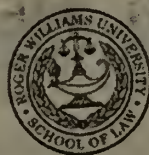
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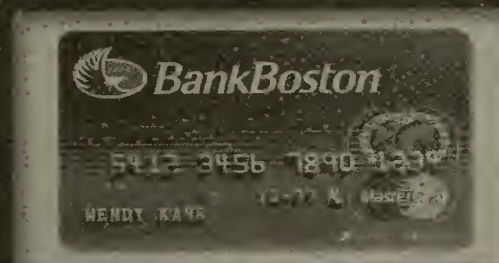
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Leadership outside the campus

by Manny Lewis

Although Fitchburg State's chemistry program has recently been terminated, it did prepare student Daniel J. Montville to conduct research for the National Science Foundation.

The Point is printing this selection excerpts of a conversation Montville recently had with Manny Lewis, as a salute to both Montville and all the members of FSC's chemistry program:

"For a period of 10 weeks this summer I was at the University of Connecticut for the NSF (National Science Foundation) Summer REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) Program in Storrs, Conn. Fourteen aspiring chemistry students were selected from some 120 applicants in the country. Each of the

14 was paired with a faculty research advisor. We were all provided single rooms for the summer, 15 meals a week, and received a stipend of \$2,800."

"Parallel to the Chemistry REU was a similar program for Physics students. Both groups lived in the same building. I worked under Organic/Polymer Chemistry Professor Dr. K. Gonsalves in the Institute of Materials Science building. Besides myself, there were three other people working in the laboratory: Jianzhao Wang, a third-year Ph.D. candidate; Hengpeng Wu, an initiate in his Ph.D. pursuit; and Shuhua Jin, post-doc. that I didn't see too often. All three of them were Chinese citizens working at the university toward their degrees. I worked primarily with Jianzhao on research incorporated into her doctoral thesis. My work could be

described as 'the synthesis, characterization, and processing of Poly (p-ethyl phenol-co-4-hydroxythiophenol) /CdS Nanocomposites and their dispersion in Polycarbonate' It sounds rather difficult, but actually the work was quite easy. I got a chance to exercise my knowledge of chemistry in a real research environment."

"It was also a good opportunity to make some solid contacts in the discipline to use down the road. My job involved preparing polymer samples, instrumental work, analyzing data, and other random experimental work. Also, being the only student with English as my native tongue, I was an invaluable asset. This added letter-drafting, paper revisions, telephone negotiations, and



Daniel J. Montville

chemical ordering to my responsibilities, indeed taking an ability I had totally unrelated to chemistry, and sharing it."

"In addition to the rigorous labora-

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Teacher education at FSC in danger

by AnneMarie Donahue

"It's kind of frightening, this big change," Danita R. Potter said. "I kind of see where he's coming from, but you have to start with the lower levels." Danita, a student at Fitchburg State College, is concerned about the effects Dr. Riccards' proposals will have on the Teacher Education program at FSC.

According to the proposals, "No students will go into the practice of teaching component without having a 3.0 average in his/her major."

"The teaching standard is 2.5, which is a C+. You want to raise that to 3.0. That's a significant jump," Cheryl Berdard stated at the Monday meeting on Sept. 21. Cheryl, along with many other students, showed up that night to voice their concerns about the proposals.

Two of the proposals concern themselves directly with teacher education, they are the second and third on the list. No. 2 states that "no student shall go into the practice teaching component without having a 3.0 average in his/her major;" and No. 3, which states

that no student can practice teaching "without first passing the Massachusetts Teacher Examination."

Many students feel that the workload is too much, and that raising the standards and changing the grading policy may be detrimental to the Teacher Education here at Fitchburg. However, there could possibly be a third problem with this new plan that many students, and possibly faculty members, are not aware of.

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education has been considering a program that has been adopted by several other states. This program, when broken down, states that a college that does not graduate 80 percent of the graduating class, of any major, stands to lose that major for the next year. With these new proposals it is likely that should this program be adopted, Fitchburg State College could possibly lose the very major it was founded on.

For more information on the program please contact the Board of Higher Education at 1-617-727-7785, and keep reading The Point as the discussions on the new proposals continue to develop.

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All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a Point article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labelled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of the Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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The Inspiration of Anne Frank

by Staci Bigelow

"Anne's diary serves as a constant source of inspiration and comfort to me."

Every time I read "The Diary of Anne Frank," I learn something new about human nature, and about myself.

I first read the diary in junior high school when I was 13, the same age Anne was when she began writing it, but only when I became older did I find myself going back to it again and again, even knowing some of the passages by memory. I don't know why this young girl has touched my heart and stirred my emotions so deeply that I am unable to accurately put these feelings into words, but she has.

Perhaps it is because during the darkest and most perilous time in the history of the world, when millions of innocent people like her lost their lives, she

retained her courage and faith, saying that in spite of everything, she still believed people were really good at heart. Or maybe it is out of extreme guilt. When Anne Frank died I would not yet be born for another 27 years, and still it pains me to think that at age 14, I was beginning high school and living in complete freedom, yet Anne at that same age was living as a prisoner and fearing for her life. Simply because of what she and her family believed.

Anne's diary serves as a constant source of inspiration and comfort to me. When I become overwhelmed with my own life and crabby because of it, I hear her say "As long as nature exists, and I may live to see it, the sunshine, the cloudless skies, while this lasts I cannot be unhappy."

And at times when my strength and faith in myself begin to falter, it is Anne who taps me on the shoulder and whispers in my ear, "Go outside, laugh, and take a breath of fresh air!"

Anne Frank's greatest wish was to become a writer. During her two years in hiding from the Nazis, she wrote several essays and short stories that she hoped to someday submit for publication.

What disturbs me perhaps the most of all is that, after hearing a member of the Dutch Cabinet-in-Exile say that a collection of diaries and letters should be made after the war, Anne began to make plans to publish her diary when she and her fellow prisoners came out of hiding. She carefully edited certain passages, made a list of fake names to protect the identities of those mentioned in the book, and chose a title, all of which were used upon its publication in the summer of 1947 - two years after her death.

Sadly, she often became discouraged about her writing, saying that "Sometimes I very much doubt whether, in the future, anyone will be interested in all my rambling." All that

rambling has now become one of the biggest-selling books of all time.

Fifty-three years ago, Anne Frank succumbed to typhoid fever in the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. But she could not be silenced.

The German police officer who arrested the eight Jews in hiding on Aug. 4, 1944 did not know when he emptied the briefcase full of notebooks and papers onto the floor that he was leaving behind the heart and soul of a young girl who would inspire millions of people around the world, in 38 languages and 40 countries.

While wars still rage and prejudice still runs rampant, there is a soft voice that still echoes in the wind, reminding us of "the goodness in mankind, and the beauty that still remains."

On April 4, 1944, exactly four months before her capture and 11 months before she would take her last breath, Anne Frank wrote "I want to go on living, even after my death!"

Memories from Falcon Fest 1998



Movie Trivia

When were Mickey and Minnie Mouse married?

Answer from last week:

"Men speak conviently of love when it serves their purpose, when it doesn't it's a burden to them."



School Stories ~ To Belong

by Adanna Agbo

As I moved my things into my room, it all felt awkward. I was really looking forward to a new beginning and a new and luckily a better roommate. Todd, who had been my roommate the previous semester, got kicked out of the dorm. Somehow, some part of me felt sorry for him; after all, all he wanted was to belong. But some other part of me acknowledged the fact that he deserved it after all he put me through.

I met Todd when I first came to the school; he was a freshman too. He was my kind of person: different, studious, quiet and reserved. People often referred to us as geeks and nerds. Things were going well the first few weeks of school, until Todd decided he was going to join a fraternity. Personally, I don't think fraternities are bad, I even encouraged him to join, and I was to regret my infinite support later on. It started with the wild parties, and he'd come back to the room very late, drunk, and loud. He started having people over, started skipping and continuously missing classes.

Then he was introduced to drugs, and he hung on to them like a life jacket in an ocean. Sometimes he had people over, and they made so much noise that I had to leave the room. And the girls, the girls never stopped coming. As if all that hadn't been enough, during his initiation period, he used me as a scapegoat. He also did things to humiliate me like take the girl the only girl I really liked. He stole from me, used my things without asking, and always made a mess of the room, and never cleaned up. Living with him was hell. And now that he's gone I hope I'll get a roommate who doesn't care about belonging the way he did.

Student of the Week

by Adanna Agbo.

Name: Rebecca Morse

Major: Communications
(TV/Film)

Year: Sophomore (Class of 2001)

Activities on Campus: Secretary of IVCF, Secretary of Programs Committee, Secretary of Class of 2001, Hosts radio shows on WXPL, member of the Dance club, member of the Intramural Softball team.

Hobbies: Hanging out with friends, listening to music, reading, writing, and hosting my radio shows.

Likes: movies, softball, Christian music, and people who don't pretend to be something else.

Dislikes: dishonesty, insects (yuck).

Ambition: To break into the world of TV and film and to be happy.

Hellos: To Rich, Shaun, Ryan, Diane, Amber, Karen, Beth, Lea and Suzanne.

Comment: Life's short, pray hard.



Photo by Tom Rettig

Falcon Fest *Continued from Cover*

"I don't know too many schools that would do this for their football team," remarked a man watching the fireworks.

After the fireworks everyone made their way back to Weston where "1964: The Tribute" to the Beatles performed a concert. The concert was followed by a midnight breakfast in the commuter café.

The next day started off with a coffee hour in the main lounge of Hammond, where FSC alumni met with Dr. Riccards and many members of Fitchburg's faculty and administration.

Across campus at the same time the women's soccer team played Western New England College on Elliot Field. The game was followed by a cookout and pre-game activities for the football game against Worcester State College.

The Disney animated film "Mulan" was shown in the Ellis White Lecture Hall for the younger kids, while the

Theater Group, The Falcon Players, and the Fitchburg Dance Club performed excerpts from their respective shows.

At 2:30, the booth to have your photo taken with your favorite star was opened in the G-lobby, where ice-cream, face painting and balloon animals were offered to the audience members just getting out of the movie.

Then at 5 the crowd was treated to an Italian dinner and live serenade entertainment. Then it was off to the Alumni Awards & Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet, where alumni were recognized for their endless support of Fitchburg State College. This was followed by a "Night at the Oscars" where alumni got to meet each other at the reunion party in the Underground.

The night was finished off with the movie "That Thing You Do," which was played on the quad for the students, alumni, faculty and others to enjoy.

Leadership *Continued from pg 5*

tory work, each student was required to give a presentation to the entire chemistry department (including faculty, staff, students, and administration) on their respective research topic. On the last day of the program, each student was also required to generate a large poster display detailing their research, and appear at a 'Poster Session' to answer any questions."

"Keep in mind that there were students from Yale and other prestigious schools in the country. One would think that each school is going to send one of their forerunning students. 'How did I compare?' you may ask. Even though we were all in individual labs, we were still, at times, placed in positions where an individual's 'learned knowledge' was compared, shared, and witnessed.

"Often, I would pay attention to what others knew. Not to be a braggart, but I would have to say that Fitchburg State's chemistry program prepared me substantially better than most of these other 14's programs at their 'prestigious' universities.

"It just so happens that FSC's chemistry program has recently been evaluated by the Board of Higher Education. The evaluation came back as 'deficient' and the program canceled. It shames me to see that my deficient background in chemistry equipped me with the tools necessary to have such a successful research experience!"

"Aside from the chemistry and research I learned a great deal about culture. Often in the lab I would talk with Hengpeng and Jianzhao about their life in China and its comparison to that of the United States.

"Many times I felt like Webster, supplying them with a more powerful vocabulary, and providing them correct context for its usage. It was great to share conversation and receive customary Chinese hospitality with meals and fellowship.

"Overall, I would say the experience was exciting, beneficial, intellectually stimulating, financially rewarding, unexpectedly rousing, and most of all fun!!!"

What is *your* favorite thing about Fitchburg?



Michael Knight
"Cogshall Park!"

Jake Evans
"Phil's apartment. It's where everyone lives."



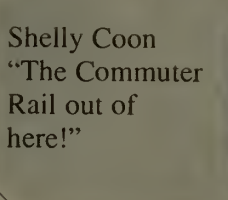
Jason Collins
"Time off to hang out with my friends & fiancée."



Adam Light
"The Wine Cellar. It's the closest thing to an English pub around here."



Jessica Roy
"I love Flat Rock! The nature is beautiful."



Shelly Coon
"The Commuter Rail out of here!"



My love affair with Fitchburg, part II

by Jessica Roy

I have lived in Fitchburg for four years. Of those three of them have been off campus. I have grown to absolutely love this city. I know Fitchburg's hay day's have long since come and gone and the city is in a grave state of decay in many places, but I love my Burg!

There are so many beautiful places to go. I have spent many peaceful hours at our city's wildlife and nature conservation lands. I fish in the lakes, pick wildflowers and went for walks with my dog. I miss my dog....

Fitchburg has so much more to offer than most people would think. The housing is very reasonably priced. I live in a beautiful home in West Fitchburg, where the only hooligans making noise outside at night are the crickets. I have met many local yokels who I have had great times with. Hey, I guess four years living here makes me a local yokel too....scary!!

There is so much to do around Fitchburg, you just have to make your own fun and get creative. I used to go on hikes and look at all the monarch butterflies in fields of milkweed down the street. Not every night out has to require a restaurant or a bar room. Especially in the Burg!

The old downtown architecture down town is breathtaking to say the least. The old mill owners must have had a lot of money and creative energy on their hands, because you don't see these kind of buildings in any old small town. The interiors of some of the buildings, such as our historical society, are exquisite, the windows and floors are like something out of the Bostonian buildings.

The Fitchburg Art Museum is a treasure in and of itself. The paintings, sculptures and wall murals are of Boston Museum of Fine Arts caliber. Check it out, it's an afternoon of fun. Best of all, it's free for FSC students!

Fitchburg has a lot to offer it's residents and visitors. I love living here. Right now I would never want to live anywhere else.

Is television getting worse?

by Jessica Roy

"This being America, I have the right to turn off my television, or simply change the channel whenever I choose."

I have never been a big fan of television, just ask my roommates. But occasionally I will sit down on the couch to watch a movie. Hey, it's cheaper than going to the movies for \$7 a ticket. In my viewings of television recently, I have noticed a startling increase of violent material on the three big networks, ABC, CBS and NBC. This is just during the day, I am afraid to see what goes on at night.

I am a very peaceful person by nature, so when I see this violence I am startled and offended, to say the least. I don't like inviting gun-totting gangsters and criminals into my home via the television.

This being America, I have the right to turn off my television, or simply

change the channel whenever I choose. I am grateful for this liberty. I am saddened however, by the fact that children are being exposed to this entertainment day in and day out. Parents are not always home to help their kids make good television choices and that can lead to inappropriate and damaging selections.

According to a poll conducted by the Center for Media Education, the two most frequently cited reasons for the lack of quality in broadcast programming are violence and insufficient educational programming. The networks need to step up their quality. Out with the garbage, in with good programming.

But what exactly is good programming? It's different for every person. Some people love intense police shows with guns and the like. Some would rather watch Julia Child on public television. It's all a matter of taste. We can not deny, however that violence is a growing force in the entertainment industry.

We need to be aware of the violence on television and the fact that it may

influence our children and ourselves. We have never lived in a time in our country, when we are not at war, and yet have such a high rate of violence plaguing our society. According to the Worcester County Rape Crisis Center, one out of every three women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime. This is a very sobering fact and for many women, a shattering reality. This fact technically means one out of every three men is capable of, or has already, sexually assaulted a woman. Is this statistic a result of family violence, television violence, a combination of both? Or is this society growing ever more violent and tolerant to violence?

I don't believe we will solve our societal diseases by unplugging our televisions or changing the channel. But, as the old computer adage says, "Garbage in, garbage out."

Perhaps we can start with ourselves and get a little more peace and a little less noise in our lives by tuning in to "Julia Child cooks vegetarian," rather than the latest shoot-'em-up show the networks are offering.

Presidents proposals hurts students

by Zac Adams

After looking through the president's proposals for major academic initiatives (they appear in the news section of this issue), one has to admit they are well intentioned. Many of them, I agreed with. If you're in college, you should be able to exercise proper grammar and writing skills. However, some of them I see as unnecessary busy work, especially for the great deal of us students who do have good grammar and writing skills. I really don't see why you're here if you don't, it's college. The requirements for going on internship and getting certified should be raised if we are going to compete with other schools. Everyone should fall under those blankets. But too many of them seem downright superfluous for anyone other than an education major.

For one, there's proposal number eight. We are getting a little to old to be writing book reports each week. I see this clearly as busy work. People in time consuming majors such as Communications or Nursing have seemingly too much to do as it is. There is simply no time to put up with this.

Number eleven is another one I disagree with. I came here to major in Communications, not History. Taking a year out to study history is only taking time away from me studying what I need to study. Same goes for 17 (sci-

ence). But I know President Riccards is a history buff so if he really must do this why does it have to be Western Civ? We have that coming out of our ears by the time we get to college. I'd much rather learn about a more exotic culture.

Then there's the new grading policy; I can't see how this helps anybody. No professor is going to want to fail someone with a 69%. The norm failing grade is 65% (most of us didn't go to a private school). It's a very non-rewarding system. For someone who busts their ass to get an 84%, which is a fairly respectable grade, to get slapped with a 2.0 is unfair, especially when they missed 3.0 by one point. (How do these transfer to other schools, by the way?)

I'm assuming, (and you know what they say about that) research was done, which determined that enough of us here are basically illiterate, to warrant this overhaul. Otherwise this whole proposal would seem quite reactionary. So what I would ask of President Riccards is to develop some kind of exam or class to determine who needs extra work with grammar and writing, or just don't admit these people. Because for the rest of us who don't have a problem with it, or are not in the education major, it just wastes our time.

More of us than you think, came to college to expand our education. I came here to learn film and that's what I want to learn, not stuff I learned to death in High School.

From The Point e-mail bag

from MRodriquez

Hi guys and gals!

First of all, the paper looks great. Keep up all the great work over there at the Point, ok? Second, In reference to the proposed grading system that president Riccards wants to implement, I would like to voice my feelings of unfairness. I realize that FSC did not do very well in the Teacher-tests, but this grading system will do a lot more harm than good.

As per President Riccards' new system, anything under a 70% will be considered failing. I had a class where the professor said that, "a 70 (2.0) is a great grade for this class"...and he was right! I put in over 70 hours of out-of-class time in the labs and worked for an A, but only got a 2.0, which turned to be the highest grade in the class. Now this 2.0 will no longer be in the range of average!

Another point (no pun intended) I have is that of the Leaning Disabled and their interests. I am technically "learning disabled" and get the pieces of mail all of the time, but I refuse to let my own problems become a way of getting special attention or special considerations, so I ignore it and proceed like an average student. Getting back to the grading system, what if the best I can do in the course is just barely pass? I mean, we all have our on subjects that we excel in and those we just have the hardest time trying to pass!

One last thing,...I am a education major, and now I will have to have a GPA of at least a 3.0 to graduate. Now, I already have one degree in architecture and chose to come to FSC to get a teaching degree, and if by some chance I do NOT make the 3.0 cut-off and I find I have wasted 3 more years of my life and money, I will have one thing to say to Riccards....I'm transferring to Bridgewater State!

Trio performs Gershwin's music

by Robin Sandberg

Le Trio Gershwin, which has brought the music of George Gershwin to audiences around the world, is scheduled to perform Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall.

The trio has performed throughout Europe and the United States, including such venues as the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and Le Chateau de Carrouges in Normandy, France.

Le Trio Gershwin consists of classical guitarist Alfred Street, pianist Jean-Noel Roux and cellist Benoit Charvet.

Guitarist Street's solo career has encompassed over 400 recitals in 35 states. He has taught at the New England Conservatory in Boston and the Longy school of music in Cambridge. In Europe, he has toured

through France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland and England. He has also made several recordings.

Pianist Roux has won the Premier Prix and Prix d'Honneur awards at the Conservatory Conservatoire Supérieur in Versailles. He has toured extensively in France and elsewhere, performing

the piano concertos of Brahms, Schumann and Ravel, while maintaining an active involvement in jazz and popular music.

Cellist Charvet is an improviser, arranger and performer who has immersed himself in both jazz and classical music.

He has also explored the possibilities of the five-string cello, which is seldom used today. He has composed film scores as well as music for television.

Tickets, at \$10 (\$5 for those under 17) are available at the Weston Box Office from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Le Trio returns to Fitchburg for the second year in a row

Falcon players need assistance in perversity

by Guy Marachino

The Falcon Players, Fitchburg State College's theater group will present "Sexual Perversity in Chicago" at a later date, but they require assistance in their endeavor to bringing Perversity to Fitchburg. The group

meets downstairs beneath the Holmes Dining Common on Fridays at 1:30 and is looking for anyone interested in acting, directing, producing, costume designing, make-up, lighting, stage craft, etc. If you are interested please come to the meetings.

CD Reviews

Soul Asylum *Candy From A Stranger*

by Robin Sandberg

I saw Soul Asylum as an opening act for a concert this summer and the first thing I thought was: "where the hell have they been?" The last thing I had really remembered from them was the popular song "Runaway Train" from their first album *Grave Dancers Union*. Occasionally I heard something from them but mostly of Dave's (lead singer) relationship with Wynona Ryder. The next day after the concert I went out and bought their new CD.

Soul Asylum's new album *Candy From A Stranger* is their third album that continues their pure rock sounds which makes them incomparable to all the other bands overloading the rock station. When you listen to them you remember what the true meaning of rock and roll is. This album continues their classic sound but with a little maturity as well.

Their feature songs are: "I will still

be laughing", which is a bit of sarcasm towards the listener, and "No time for waiting" an upbeat song of the lack of time. Another song that wasn't high lighted on the cover to attract the public was "Blood into wine" which is a smooth relaxing song that reacts in the pit of your stomach. It sends a pang of frustration and delusion. When I heard them live in concert the song "Close" was what got me as it echoed through Great Woods. It's a slow song with a strong overtone. The tune portrays a feeling of personal will and the extraordinary bond of friendship, "... I've

known you forever, we complete each other's thoughts".

You may be curious where Dave has been all this time. Dave Pirner was writing the score for Kevin Smith's hit movie *Chasing Amy*. Though as of now they are touring. I definitely suggest this album for anyone in the mood for something refreshing. To remind you why you fell in love with music in the first place. If you liked them before you will definitely enjoy them even more now.



The Headhunters Could Take a Lesson From The Blood Hound Gang

by Jessica Roy

Herbie Hancock has once again reunited with the formally disbanded original Headhunters to create yet another collection of fusion based jazz tracks. The mid-70's brought about the rise and glory days of fusion, and along with it such bands as Weather Report and the Headhunters. Hancock fronted the original band line up, which was reassembled for their new album "The Return of The Headhunters."

This album features too few of the old

school fusion and jazz styles Hancock is famous for in his prior works. The album, however is overladen with studio producing, and electronic fillers, the seemingly original sounds are virtually paralyzed under it's weight. Digitized drum beats run rampant through almost all of the tracks, and greatly take away from the musical integrity of the band.

This album is very limited in it's artistic scope, which is very surprising, considering the experience and worldliness of the members and their musical ability. I would not recommend this album to any jazz, funk or fusion enthusiast. Steer your musical ear clear of this grossly watered down attempt at jazz fusion. Your ears will thank you for it.



Movie Reviews

Urban Legend

by Robin Sandberg

Following Hollywood's present trend of churning out gen-X scare flicks, Sony's *Urban Legend* has just hit theaters. Unless you have been stuck in a closet for the past decade, you've heard some of the stories. A guy's stomach explodes from ingesting pop rocks and soda; a girl hears a scraping noise on the roof of her car, and finds out it's made by her boyfriend's feet while hanging dead from a tree.

The film takes place at Pendleton College, where legend has it that a psych professor, years before, had wandered through the dorms and cut six girls' throats before stabbing himself in the chest. The main character is Natalie (Alicia Witt), who witnesses murders that she believes to be repetition of urban legends. Her best-friend Brenda (Rebecca Gayheart) and Paul (Jared Leto), a pushy journalism major, both insist that the murders are

just coincidence. Professor Wexler (Robert Englund of *Nightmare on Elm Street* fame) insists the urban legend stories are not real.

The movie flowed well, keeping the killer's identity a mystery while also keeping the audience in suspense. Horror flicks seem to be getting more

gruesome as they become more popular, and this movie was quite gory. It helps to have a friend to grab onto at those jumpy moments, which there is no shortage of in *Legend*.

The cast did a decent job, and I can tell you I was surprised that Gayheart's acting surpassed her much acclaimed Noxema commercial,... but not by all

that much. Witt, best known for her role in the sitcom "Cybill," showed some promising drama, but Leto (Jordan Catalano on "My so-called life") was really the only actor who proved to have any real ability. Even though I was left annoyed by the impractical ending, I was pleasantly thrilled with "*Urban Legend*" and would suggest as a "fun" movie.



Ronin

by Michael McGonigle

If you're looking for a typical action movie to be spoon-fed to you, "Ronin" is definitely not your cup of tea. Robert DeNeiro stars as the lead role in this high-powered chess game that will keep you on the edge of your seat for the whole ride.

The film takes place in modern day Paris, and the plot of the story is to attain possession of a simple silver case. You'd think it wouldn't be a big deal, but its contents are important enough to kill for. I cannot disclose what's inside of the case, but I can tell you that the set designs and chase scenes alone are worth seeing the film on a big screen. To put this in perspective: picture a car driving down very

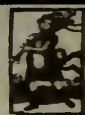
narrow streets, and you witness the whole thing strapped to the front bumper! This movie has some of the best cinematography I've seen in years.

Story-wise the movie needed more work. There are no real times that the movie drags on and on, but there was something about the film that typical moviegoers would think to themselves, "Something's Missing?"

"Ronin" has a little more pizzazz than most action dramas, and the really good thing about it was that they didn't dumb the dialogue down. For instance: in an Arnold Schwarzenegger film you'll find him drop a guy off a ledge, and when someone asks what happened he'll say, "I had to let him go." Lines and puns like these do not exist in the screenplay. Overall, I'd recommend this movie for action/drama interests only. If you like happy fuzzy bunnies, go see a Disney flick.

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Boys of Summer Drop Two

by Michael McGonigle

The defense for the men's soccer team couldn't hold everything together as they lost two of their three matches this week. Their record is now 4-5, and the season could go either way right now.

The week started out looking prosperous with a 2-0 shutout over Becker College at Elliot Field. Yuske Hidaka scored his first goal of the season, meanwhile Nate Arnold scored his team high seventh goal of the season.

Clark, to say the least, didn't unroll the red carpet for the Falcon's. A tough game was fought defensively, but Clark was able to hold on with a 2-1 victory. Goaltender Matt Juergens played well with 11 saves on the day, and Matteo Taomina scored his first goal of the season as well.

In the final game of the week, Mass. Maritime handed a 2-1 defeat to the Falcon's in double overtime. Darren Damiani scored his second goal of the season, but nobody else was able to step up their play. This match was the first of 7 MASCAC games this season. The team needs to put something in the win column this week, in order to keep their hopes alive.

Field hockey can't hold on

by Michael McGonigle

Only time will tell what the women's field hockey team can accomplish this season. They started out the season with a 3-1 record, but an unlikely turn of events has given them a losing record (3-4). After coming off their defeat off the coast of Salem last week, the field hockey played against Assumption College at Fitchburg State College. The hopes of home field advantage dwindled, as they suffered a 3-1 defeat. Amanda Rivard started in net, but was unable to do it alone. Leanne Lehtinen scored her second

goal of the season, but the offense was unable to score again in their defeat.

A short bus trip to Worcester, and a second loss in the MASCAC conference has put the high hopes of this season in jeopardy. Their second game of the week gave them a 2-0 defeat. In her second start and third game of the season, Amanda Rivard had another brilliant performance. Her save% of .845 is an impressive number, especially after coming off the bench.

Five of their next six games will be at home, hopefully they'll be able to use this advantage and get back on the winning track, good luck.

Who Needs Falconfest?

By Michael McGonigle

Worcester State handed FSC their third loss of the season by a score of 21-12 this past Saturday. The Lancers only needed 3:13 of possession time to score all three TD's. With the exception of a 40yd. TD run to begin the first quarter, Worcester's ground game was stonewalled.

With the ground game taken away from them, the Lancers went to the air, and finished the day with 288 yds.

passing, and 2 TD's.

For the Falcon's air attack, QB Ryan McCarthy had a tough outing. He went 8 for 32, for 100 yds, with one TD and 4 Int. D'Andra Freeman carried the ball 31 times for 159 yds, with a great 72 yd. touchdown run to begin the second half.

Defensive stars: John Fleck, 10 tackles; Jason Smith, 9 tackles; Scott Cormier, 8 tackles and a sack; Bryce Hopkins, 7 tackles, and an interception; John Rodgers, 7 tackles, and two sacks.

C.C. Continued from pg 12

middle of the course was a little confusing, but all the falcons made it to the finish all right. Christie E., who this time surprisingly enough beat her sister to the finish, came in third with a time of 21.42, followed by Christie A. with 22.01. Meghan and the Dutch One kept the fans going by showing off a turbo sprint for 7th place. The Dutch One barely won with 22.47, and Meghan therefore came in 8th with the same time. Shara Shandrowski won the meet for the team again, by coming in 12th with 24.22, just before Sarah who was 14th with 24.31. Amy Paquette finished 32nd with 28.54, followed by Stephanie "I'm back!" Kretas with a nice 29.17. Fabulous Fay finished the pack with a monster sprint, and got a standing ovation from the crowd.

The men's race was really tough, and some guys were unable to complete the entire race without your occasional 'my breakfast doesn't feel so good-stop'. Keto "the iron man" Sysong won another race in this tough crowd with 28.54. "Keto you rock my world!" Darren "this wasn't one of my better races" Madeiros came in 5th with

30.17, followed by an impressive Micah "Sleepy Floyd" Hatch with 31.23. Big Daddy Brian Walsh almost beat two Assumption runners to the finish, and came in 14th with 32.46. Ryan Cringan had to make a short pit-stop during his run, but nevertheless finished his race with 33.11. Shaun "I'm awesome at Pole-vault" Grier was looking happier than ever, and came in 28th with 36.17. He was just behind Don "Please don't shout" Kenneally with the same time. "Way to work it together men!" Mark "Only one more to go" Teator and Jon "Dutch boy" Oosterman came in 27th and 28th with 38.56, and 42.15.

Coach Jellison was very pleased with the team's results, but did mention "We still have a long way to go!" Jellison seemed very happy with the number of people who've been showing up for practice and meets, and as he put it "People are cheering for each other, and laying it on the line!" Four down, and we don't have to go to the New England's, so we're going camping baby!

RJ.

V.Ball Continued from pg 12

To put a real finishing boomer on this intense volleyball week, the team went to Clark University on Saturday to play in their tournament. The start of this day-long adventure was surprisingly slow, but let's talk about the good stuff... The ride up was like a roller-coaster with pump-up songs, that even got the fresh-chicks on the team singing. After a two-second warm-up, they had to play their first game against Emmanuel College. It was a close three setter, but the match still went to Emmanuel with 1-15, 15-17, 8-15. Joanie was digging like there was no tomorrow, Inori's sets were better than ever, and smily Michelle was smackin' 'm down there.

During the second match the Dutch One had to run a little errand, but the digging-streak continued. Joanie and Inori got Meg and Chicks to join in with their digging-fun. Jill did awesome, and Marie had a killer time. The match went to Clark with 13-15, 3-15 and 8-15. By the time the Dutch One returned the hungry herd had gone to lunch, and she was left with a very

angry bad-time-of-the-month referee who wanted to forfeit our game. Right before she was going to forfeit the whole game Inori ran in and calmed down the "I can't swear can I ?!" The team jumped on the floor and ruled the court, winning from Anna Maria College in five sets with: forfeit, forfeit, 15-2, 15-9 and 15-7. I've never seen a team be this spirited, so I suggest you guys forfeit the first two games of every match, and just kick #ss. Everybody just did so well, Jill was showing off her setting skills, and the bench was louder than ever. Lisa actually smiled a lot this game, and the fire-engine sounds were back! PMS Ref 0-FSC 1, THANK YOU! The last game against Brandeis was close, but went to Brandeis with 10-15, 5-15, 5-15. The team, and coach for that matter, were just a little tired after this whole ordeal of rushing around. Their good mood was unbreakable though, they wrote history, even if it was just in my book. Girls...any time, any place, anywhere! Thanks for an awesome Saturday!

RJ.

Up close and personal with FSC Volleyball

by Rhalda Jansen

During the last week this Dutch volleyball-wanna-be had the opportunity to spend some quality time with the volleyball women and coach. It was quite the week. I can tell you that much! It was a week of ups and downs, and total ecstasy. The word "forfeit" is permanently branded in my brain, and Tiffany has somewhat damaged the hearing out of my left ear. Got to love her though!

It all started on September 28th with the exiting home game against UMass Boston. The good, and bad vibes on the right and left side of the net seemed to be having a field-day again. The first set went to the falcons with 15-10. It introduced us to Megan's new hair-do, and Chicks who was just jammin' out there! Her life was almost cut short by one of Meg's intense serves though. The girls started out awesome, but later started to give away points, so Lisa had to step in and yeli: "Play vol-

leyball, and stop screwing it up!" Man that worked wonders.

The second game had a very smily Jill, must have been all those aces she got. A rolling Joanie, and the Spike (not Spice) Girls Chicks and Marie. All this good stuff wasn't enough to win the game though so it went to Boston with a close 11-15. The score board had power problems, and the male fans were doing push-ups. "Who says volleyball isn't fun!" The third game was won by the falcons again with an impressive 15-6. Smily Michelle was subbed in for Dana, and really rocked with her serves. Inori's awesome jump-sets where knocked down on enemy territory by chicks, and Jill's serves took it home!

The fourth game went to Boston with 10-15. Boston's G.I. Jane, with her nice socks, was really on a killing streak. Even Chicks' network, and Lisa's fire-engine noises couldn't save that game. The rally-game unfortunately also went to Boston with a

close 12-15. "Nice fight out there though Megan!" Boston's tips really killed us, and Lisa told the team: "We have to be ready, and adjust to the team we're playing!" And my own Dutch tip of the week: Keep the ball over and in, don't tell anyone OK?

On Wednesday September 30th the volleyball team had to travel to UMass Dartmouth for an away game. Even though the match went to Dartmouth in three games (13-15, 11-15, 7-15) the game went a lot better than the one on Monday. Chicks had an awesome game with two solo blocks, and a 0.778 killing average (14 kills, no



Volleyball huddles up for the kill
photo by Rhalda Jansen

errors out of 18 hits) you go girl! Marie also had a good killing streak with 6 kills, 1 error out of 13 hits. Dana was digging on the #18, one of Dartmouth's best players who can put the ball wherever she wants. The falcons put up a good fight, and are back into one of their better jives.

Continued, pg 11

October spells defeat for women's soccer

by Michael McGonigle

The lady Falcons dropped three matches in a row this week, falling to a 3-6-1 record. In the first match of the week, RI College stopped them short of a winning record in a 5-0 shutout. At the half, it was still close, with RI College up 2-0. The Falcon's however, had little offense in the second half, and RI College capitalized by scoring three more times.

In the second match of the week, the women lost a heartbreaking overtime loss to Regis College 3-2. Jennifer Duncan scored had a team leading 10 shots on net, and scored twice. She leads the team with 7 goals and 1 assist. Netminder Kelly Thiffault, played well between the pipes. Coming out at the half, the score remained tied at 0. At 70:30, Duncan scored on a great shot to put her team ahead, 1-0. Five minutes later, Duncan scored her second goal of the game to put her team up by two. Regis answered right back with a quick

score, which cut the Falcon's lead to one. With time running out, Regis broke through the Falcon defense, and scored with only three minutes left in regulation. Victory fell into the hands of Regis as they scored midway through OT.

WNEC came to Fitchburg with an 11-1 record, and FalconFest had no effect on their play as they trounced the lady Falcon's 5-0. The scoreboard was lit up within ten minutes of the match. WNEC got up quickly with four more goals. At the half the score remained 5-0 and that's all WNEC would get. Senior Sweeper Lisa Herrick, took charge in the second half to lead the defense on the field. The offense was unable to find any holes in WNEC's defense throughout the match. Team spirit was high during their defeat, and they really kept their heads up after the game.

The rest of their schedule is the most important of all, with 6 of their next 8 games against MASCAC opponents.

"Y'all ready for this!"

by Rhalda Jansen

Last Saturday the FSC cross country team had their first away-tri-meet with Clark and Assumption, at Clark University. Their course had a little bit of everything, two killer-hills, some road, a sniff of woods and even some beach. The falcon women kicked #ss with a 35-40-48 win, and the men came in second with 29-46-47.

After the Dutch One was dropped of at the meet by a very nice Clark trainer, it was already time to get pumped, and get ready to run. Instead of a gun or a whistle we got "GO!" this time and were on our way. Some weird person was yelling "Ya'all ready for this!" while

the herd of runners took off. hey! Whatever gets you going. I believe this was one of the nicest crowds I've ever run in, everybody was cheering each other on.



Iron man Keto Sysong rules the race
Photo by Tom Retting

The Christies did their usual Spanish-yelling-thing to scare the opponents and took off. You go girls! The first part of the race was a nice little loop on the road, and after a fast first mile we headed into the woods. Kevin Costner was right when he said: "That's when it begins" cause boy! Those hills were tough. I

know the course was no Coggs hall park, but those mama's were still up there! Meghan was pulling the Dutch One up the hill, and the Cristies continued their course of destruction. The

Continued, pg 11